

2014 WSLHA BOARD REPORT

BOARD POSITION: *WSLHA Lobbyist*

LIAISON TO: *President*

BOARD MEMBER NAME: *Melissa Johnson*

BOARD MEETING DATE: *September 13, 2014*

HB 2108 (hearing aid specialist) update:

The Board of Hearing and Speech met on June 24th and discussed the next steps for HB 2108 implementation and the report to the Legislature.

On the practical exam, the Board has still not had a chance to review the Oregon or Texas exams. They will convene another committee meeting before the Board's November meeting to review the Oregon exam. The Board passed a motion that states that proctors for the exam will be industry experts and Board members who have advanced national certification and a minimum of 5 years' experience. The Board also passed a motion that directs them to develop the process and forms for approval for programs wanting to offer the 9 month certification.

Also at the June 24th meeting, the Board reviewed its draft report to the Legislature. The overarching theme of the report is that they are not recommending a work-based learning permit/apprenticeship program. Here are the recommendations:

- The 9 month certification program can have a work-based component. This component must be part of the application for approval by the Board.
- There may be the need for legislation in the future that creates an interim permit for hearing aid specialists who are waiting for their credential (similar to the interim permit for SLPs).
- The maximum amount of time allowed for completion of the 9 month program is two years.
- The report recommends a minimum of 520 hours of work-based learning within the 9 month program.
- Supervision will have to be further defined in rule.

The report will go to the Secretary of the Department of Health for approval. If he recommends any changes, it must return to the Board for approval.

The Board will be holding rules workshops on 9/12, 9/29, 10/6, and 10/13. The purpose of the workshops is to engage stakeholders in the rule-writing process so that questions and concerns can be addressed before the formal rules hearing.

Copay/costsharing issue:

I have begun meeting with other associations to prepare for legislation on copay/costsharing. There is interest among a diverse group, including PTWA, WOTA, Washington State Chiropractic Association, Washington East Asian Medicine Practitioner Association (WEAMA), and a group of cardiac rehabilitation physicians. I have recently met with Rep. Cody, chair of the House Health Care Committee, who is interested in pursuing this

issue in 2015. I am meeting with Sen. Randi Becker, chair of the Senate Health Care Committee, in September to discuss this issue.

BOARD MEETING DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS:

Legislator meetings on copay and school issues
Scheduling conflict with Fall Convention

OTHER ACTIVITIES OR ANNOUNCEMENTS: None